

# Report: How the Government is getting on with the Disability Action Plan



**6-monthly report:  
July 2021 to December 2021**



## Before you start



This is a long document.

While it is written in Easy Read it can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:

- read it a few pages at a time
- have someone help you to understand it.



# What you will find in this report

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# What is this report about?

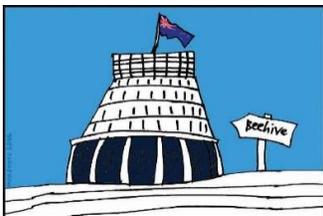


This Easy Read document is a **summary** of a report about how the work for the **Disability Action Plan** is going.

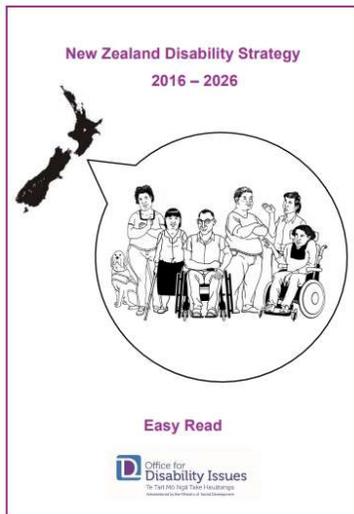


## A summary:

- is shorter than the full report
- tells you the main ideas.



The **Disability Action Plan** is how the government will make the **New Zealand Disability Strategy** happen.



The **New Zealand Disability Strategy** makes sure disabled people:

- are treated fairly
- get what they need to have a good life
- are part of the community
- can make their own decisions.



The Office for Disability issues website has more information in Easy Read about the:

- New Zealand Disability Strategy
- Disability Action Plan.



You can find the Office for Disability Issues **website** at:

**[www.odi.govt.nz](http://www.odi.govt.nz)**



You can also contact the Office for Disability Issues:

- by **phone** on: **0800 566 601**

- by **email** on:



**[office\\_for\\_disability\\_issues@whaikaha.govt.nz](mailto:office_for_disability_issues@whaikaha.govt.nz)**

# What is the Disability Action Plan?



The Disability Action Plan started in November 2019.

The Disability Action Plan says what work the government will do to improve the **wellbeing** of disabled people under 8 **outcomes**.



**Wellbeing** means how people feel about their lives.

Some of the things that are important to wellbeing are:

- health
- money
- housing.



**Outcomes** are the things we want to happen.

The 8 outcomes of the plan are:



1. Education



2. Jobs and money



3. Health and wellbeing



4. Looking after the rights of disabled people



5. Accessibility



6. Attitudes towards disability



7. Disabled people having choices / control over their own lives



8. Disabled people as leaders.



You can find more information about the things being worked on in each of the 8 outcomes in the Disability Action Plan.

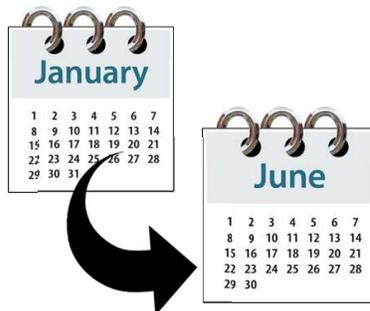
You can find this Easy Read translation on the Office for Disability Issues website at:



[www.odi.govt.nz](http://www.odi.govt.nz)



Every **6 months** the Office for Disability Issues reports on how the work on the Disability Action Plan is going for the different parts of government.



**6 months** is half a year.



This summary of the report looks at what the different parts of Government did from:

**July 2021**

to

**December 2021.**



These reports are 1 of the ways to see how well the Disability Action Plan is working.

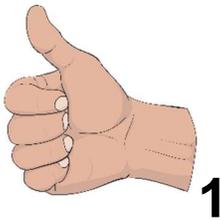


This report is the fourth report.

## What has happened so far?



The Disability Action Plan has **29** work programmes.



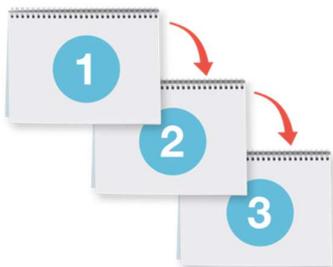
The people working on **1** of these programmes said their work is finished.



The people working on **21** of these programmes said their work is going well.



The people working on **4** of these programmes said they are meeting the **goals** set out in the plan.



**Goals** are the things the people planned to do by a certain time.



Some of those **10** people said they are further ahead than planned.



**11**

The people working on **11** of the programmes said they will finish on time.



**4**

The people working on **4** of the programmes said they have not done as much as the plan said.

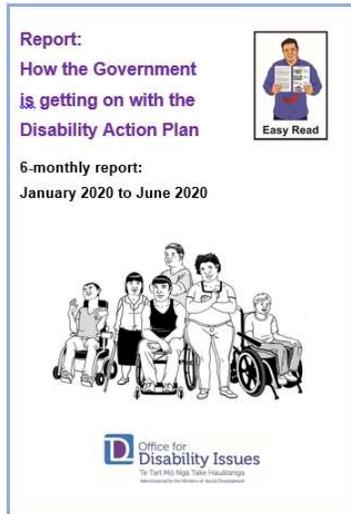


The people working on these **4** programmes said they think they will still finish their work on time.



**5**

**5** of the work programmes has had problems with doing its work on time because of COVID-19.



Some important things have been done by different government departments.

In this Easy Read report we look at what the government departments have been doing for each outcome.

The government departments we will look at in this document include:



- the Ministry of Education



- the Tertiary Education Commission



- the Ministry of Social Development



- the Ministry of Health



- Sport New Zealand.

Some other government departments we will look at in this Easy Read report are:



- the Ministry of Justice



- the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development



- Kāinga Ora



**Te Tari Kaumātua**  
Office for Seniors

- the Office for Seniors



- the Ministry of Transport



- Waka Kotahi the New Zealand Transport Agency.

# What has been done on outcome 1 – Education



Outcome 1 – Education is about disabled people:



- getting the best education they can
- supporting people to use the skills they have learned to have a good life .



The government departments working on Outcome 1 – Education are the:



1. Ministry of Education
2. Tertiary Education Commission.





## What the Ministry of Education has done



The Ministry of Education is in charge of places where people learn like:

- early childhood learning centres
- schools
- universities.



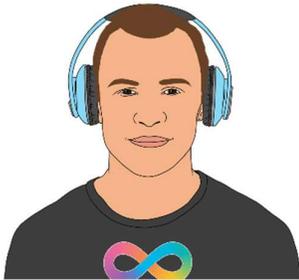
In this document we will call the Ministry of Education the **MoE** for short.



The MoE has 6 large pieces of work to do for the Disability Action Plan.



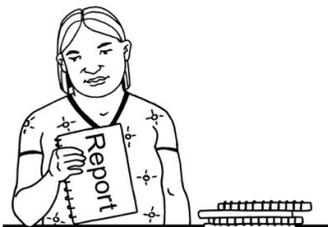
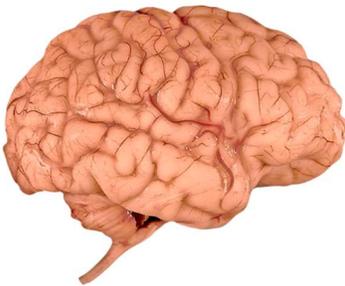
The MoE has worked on the Learning Support Action Plan which includes training for teachers to understand what **neurodiverse** students need.



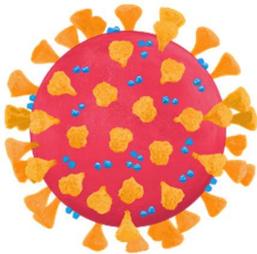
**Neurodiverse** people have brains that work differently from the brains of people who are not neurodiverse.

Their brains work differently:

- in lots of different ways
- in ways that are often different to other neurodiverse people.



The MoE has worked on a piece of work called **Curriculum, Progress and Achievement**.



**Curriculum** is a list of subjects / courses that someone can study at school / college.

**Curriculum, Progress and Achievement** is about every child:

- having the chance to learn
- having opportunities to learn
- getting the learning they have the right to get.

Some of the work for Curriculum, Progress and Achievement has been **delayed** by COVID-19.

**Delayed** means something has been put off being done until a later time.



The MoE has put together a group who will make sure that people have a say about what the new curriculum will include like:



- Māori
- the family / whānau of Māori
- disabled students / ākongā.



There is also a new resource for teachers for a subject called New Zealand Histories.



New Zealand Histories will tell students about what happened to disabled people in New Zealand in the past.



The MoE has done work on the **NCEA** Review.



**NCEA** means **National Certificate of Educational Achievement**.



NCEA is the main **qualification** for students who are at secondary school in New Zealand.



A **qualification** is an award that shows you have passed a test called an **exam**.

You can get this award if your work meets certain **standards** which are a way of showing how good something is.



The work that the MoE has done on the NCEA Review means that:

- the new standards for the NCEA Level 1 qualification have been changed so they think about the needs of disabled people



- disabled students / ākongā have worked with the MoE to make sure the standards are good for everyone in:



- **literacy** which is the subject that teaches people about reading / writing



- **numeracy** which is the subject that teaches people about numbers.



The MoE have put together 6 groups called Workforce Development Councils to make sure the work in **vocational education** is done well.



**Vocational education** is when you learn the skills you need to do a particular job by working in that job.



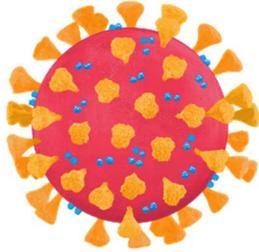
Vocational education supports students to learn skills for jobs like:

- building houses
- repairing motor vehicles
- nursing
- vet nursing
- hospitality / coffee making training
- hair dressing.





People in the Government called Cabinet have also decided how they will fund disabled students in vocational education.



The piece of work called the Early Learning Action Plan has been delayed because of COVID-19.



The Early Learning Action Plan is a plan about how children under 5 years old can:

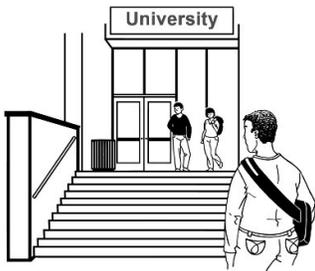
- have good lives
- learn
- do well.



## What the Tertiary Education Commission has done



The Tertiary Education Commission looks after **tertiary education organisations** and **careers**.



**Tertiary education organisations** are places that people go to after high school / college to do more learning.

Some tertiary organisations are:

- universities
- polytechnics.





A **career** is when someone stays in the same type of skilled work for a long time like:

- teaching
- nursing.



The Tertiary Education Commission put together the Kia Ōrite Toolkit.



The toolkit is a guide for tertiary education organisations on how they can give disabled learners better support.



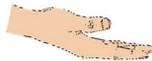
All tertiary education organisations who get more than 5 million dollars in funding each year need to put together a Disability Action Plan.

# What has been done on outcome 2 – Jobs and money



Outcome 2 is about:

- jobs
- making sure people have enough money to live a healthy life.



There are 4 pieces of work currently being done by the Ministry of Social Development. for outcome 2.



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

In this document we will call the Ministry of Social Development **MSD** for short.

## What the Ministry of Social Development is doing



MSD supports people with things like:

- finding a job
- getting money if you do not work
- getting money if you are studying
- finding a place to live.

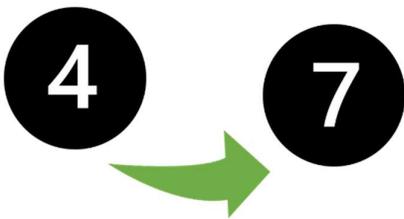


In outcome 2 some disabled students can access the **Training Incentive Allowance**.

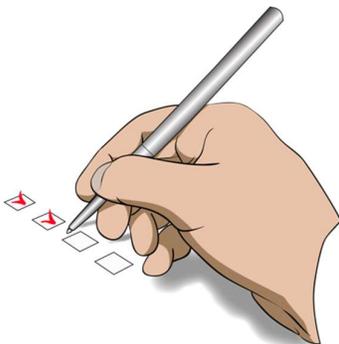


The **Training Incentive Allowance** is money you can get from the government that you can use to pay for:

- fees you might have for courses you are studying
- other things you might have to pay for as part of your study.



The Training Incentive Allowance is for students who are studying the **New Zealand Qualifications Framework** at levels 4 to 7.



The **New Zealand Qualifications Framework** sets out what students need to do to pass the courses they are studying.



A toolkit to guide / give support to businesses / companies about employing disabled people was published.



Work has started for removing the **Minimum Wage Exemption**.



The **Minimum Wage Exemption** is when disabled people get paid less than non-disabled people to do the same job.

## What has been done on outcome 3 – Health and wellbeing



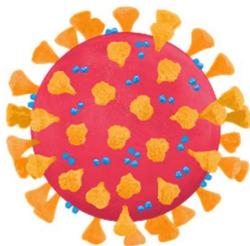
Outcome 3 is about:

- health
- wellbeing.

The 2 government departments doing work for outcome 4 are:



- the Ministry of Health
- Sport New Zealand.



A lot of work has not been done on outcome 3 because of COVID-19.



## What the Ministry of Health is doing



The **Ministry of Health** is in charge of health care in New Zealand.



The Ministry of Health has made changes to the **Funded Family Care** policy.



**Funded Family Care** is for disabled people who have a lot of needs who choose to have a family member they live with support them.



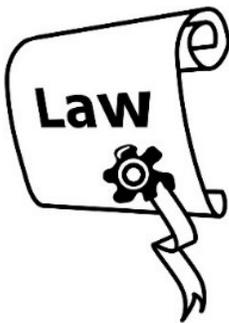
The Ministry of Health will work with a group called the Disabled People's Organisation Coalition to decide if more work is needed on Funded Family Care in the next 18 months.



The Ministry of Health is looking at changing how **seclusion** is used on people with mental illness.



**Seclusion** is when a person is placed alone in a locked room.



The guidelines about using seclusion are in a law called the **Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992**.



The **Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992** is about people with mental illness being:

- given treatment they do not want
- made to stay in hospital if they do not want to.





The Government said okay to making changes to this law in October 2021.



The Ministry of Health is working with **Te Pou** to put together information about the changes.



**Te Pou** supports services who work in:

- mental health
- addiction
- disability.





## What Sport New Zealand is doing



Sport New Zealand works to:

- support people to have a good time playing sport
- show people that playing sport can have a good affect on their wellbeing.



The Sport New Zealand Disability Action Plan is about making sure disabled people have the same access as non-disabled people to:

- do sports they enjoy
- recreation.





**Recreation** is when people do an activity for fun.



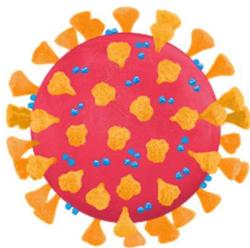
Sport New Zealand is giving money called **funding** to Parafed.



Parafed is a group working on ways to support people who are physically disabled people to do sport.



Sport New Zealand was going to host a hui / meeting to talk about disability.



The hui has been put off until another time because of COVID-19.

## What has been done on outcome 4 – Rights protection and justice



Outcome 4 is about protecting the rights of disabled people.



The Ministry of Justice is looking at outcome 4 of the Disability Action Plan.



The Ministry of Justice is the part of Government that is in charge of things like:



- the courts
- prisons



- the police
- supporting **victims**.



A **victim** is a person who is harmed / hurt during a crime.



## What the Ministry of Justice is doing



The Communication Assistance Scheme works to make sure everyone who uses the court system knows what to do / expect like:



- **defendants** who are people who have been accused of a crime
- **witnesses** who are people who:



- saw a crime happen
- have been asked to tell people in court what they saw.



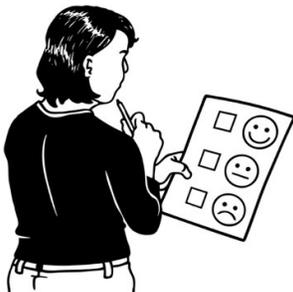
A new way of making a **complaint** about the Communication Assistance Scheme has been set up for disabled people.



A **complaint** is when you tell someone you are not happy about something.



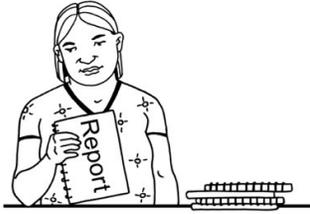
There are also more people working on the scheme to make it better.



A **survey** that looks at crime in New Zealand was completed in November 2021.



A **survey** is when you ask people questions about what they think.



The Ministry of Justice will write a report about what this survey found.



There is an plan going on to put a stop to things that can cause harm to others like:

- **familiy violence**
- **sexual violence.**



**Family violence** is when a person is harmed by another member of their family like:

- being punched / hit
- being hurt in other ways like being made to feel scared of another person.

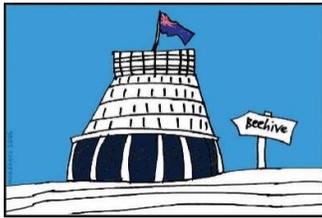




**Sexual violence** which is when a person is harmed in a way that is sexual.



A **bill** for a new sexual violence law is closer to becoming a law.



A **bill** is something that will become a law if Parliament says yes to it.



It can be scary / upsetting for people to witness a crime.



The sexual violence bill will aim to make it less upsetting for victims to tell the court what has happened to them.

# What has been done on outcome 5 – Accessibility



Outcome 5 is about making things **accessible**.



**Accessible** can mean many different things for people.

**Accessible** means that disabled people can:

- get into / move around in buildings easily
- use services easily
- get around in their community
- understand what is being said
- get information in ways that they can understand.

The parts of Government who are working on Outcome 5 include:



- the Ministry of Social Development



- the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development



- Kāinga Ora



- the Ministry of Transport



- Waka Kotahi



**Te Tari Kaumātua**  
Office for Seniors

- the Office for Seniors.

## What the Ministry of Social Development is doing



The Ministry of Social Development put together guidelines to better support disabled people called **Accelerating Accessibility**.



**Accelerating Accessibility** means looking at what needs to be done to make New Zealand accessible for disabled people faster.



You can read an Easy Read document about Accelerating Accessibility on the MSD website here:

<https://bit.ly/3JFsT1z>

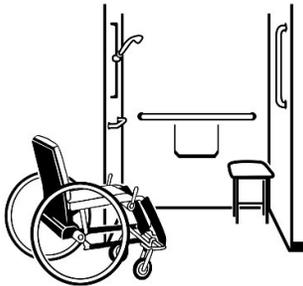


## What the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is doing



The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is also known as **HUD**.

HUD advises Government about planning for better homes for people in New Zealand.



HUD has stopped looking at how they can make rental houses more accessible.



They are now looking at supporting young homeless people of which some are also disabled.



## What Kāinga Ora is doing



Kāinga Ora is a part of Government that provides homes to people in need.



Kāinga Ora is made up of people from other groups like:



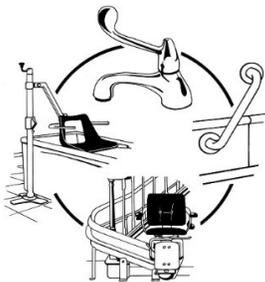
- KiwiBuild

- Housing New Zealand



Homes. Land. Community.

- Homes. Land. Community.



Kāinga Ora is looking at:

- building more new homes that are accessible for everyone

- making homes that are already built to be more accessible.





Kāinga Ora is also finding out which homes they have that are already accessible.



Kainga Ora has a new service called **Suitable Home with the Right Support**.



**Suitable Home with the Right Support** makes sure disabled people can get the right support when using Kāinga Ora services.



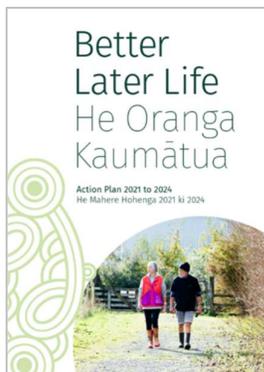
Kāinga Ora has also put together guidelines for designing houses that are accessible.



## What the Office for Seniors is doing



The Office for Seniors advises the Government on things that affect older people in New Zealand.



The **Office for Seniors** has published the **Better Later Life Action Plan**.



The **Better Later Life Action Plan** is about making things better for older people like:

- employment
- housing
- **digital inclusion** which means everyone is able to use things like the internet / email.



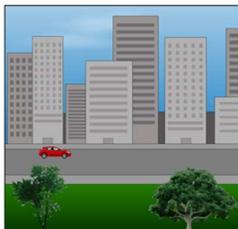


**Age Friendly Aotearoa** is a project run by the Office for Seniors that supports communities to include older people more.



Age Friendly Aotearoa has:

- given money to 8 communities that are age friendly
- information about **urban places** that are age friendly
- put together plans for a group called the Age Friendly Network.



**Urban places** are places like:

- cities / towns
- areas outside of cities/ towns called **suburbs**.



## What the Ministry of Transport is doing



The Ministry of Transport advises Government about what needs to change in the **transport system**.



The transport system is the ways people can get around like:

- buses
- trains
- ferries



total MOBILITY 

The Ministry of Transport looked at things that might stop people from using **Total Mobility**.



**Total Mobility** is a system for people with disabilities who cannot use public transport.

Total Mobility provides things like:

- electronic cards / vouchers that makes using the transport system cost less money
- funding so local councils can get accessible vehicles for wheelchair users.



The Ministry of Transport put out a report about Total Mobility in December 2021.

## What Waka Kotahi is doing



**Waka Kotahi** is the New Zealand Transport Agency.

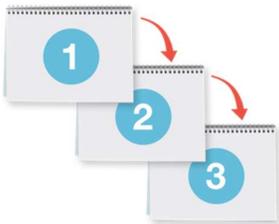


Waka Kotahi looks after things like:

- transport safety
- road signs
- driving licences.



Waka Kotahi put together a Disability Action Plan.





Waka Kotahi also:

- said yes to things needed for buses in urban areas
- put out a guide about how to plan and design for pedestrians who are people who get around by walking / running
- put out a guide about designing the way public transport works.



# What has been done on outcome 6 – Attitudes



Outcome 6 is about **attitudes towards disability**.



**Attitudes towards disability** means changing the ways people think about disability.

This means we want disabled people to be:

- understood
- accepted for who they are.



This outcome aims to change how people think / act about disability for the better.





Outcome 6 will change how people think about disability by:

- making sure we know more about the needs of disabled people
- making sure disabled people are involved in more projects about changing attitudes towards disability
- listening to disabled people.



There are no areas of work for outcome 6.



It is hoped that the way people think / act about disability will get better by doing good work in the other 7 outcomes.

# What has been done on outcome 7 – Choice and control



Outcome 7 is about disabled people having:



- choices
- control over their own lives.

Disabled people in some parts of New Zealand get support from:



**Mana Whaikaha**  
Enabling Good Lives

- Mana Whaikaha

**Enabling Good Lives**

- Enabling Good Lives.

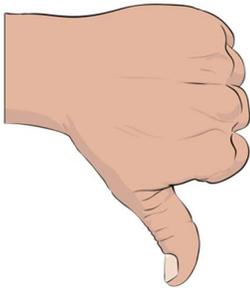


These are disability support systems which give people more choice / control in the supports they get.



The 2 support systems are for:

- disabled people
- tāngata whaikaha Māori / Māori disabled people
- the whānau / family of disabled people.



Some of the work for outcome 7 called Supported Decision Making is not quite going as it should be.



A document about Supported Decision Making is being worked on.



The Ministry of Health is working on a piece of work called Disability Support System Transformation.

## Enabling Good Lives



The work done on Disability Support System Transformation means that people will soon be able to access Enabling Good Lives wherever they live in New Zealand.



A new Ministry of Disabled People called Whaikaha was announced in October 2021.



A group has been put together to set up the new Ministry.

# What has been done on outcome 8 – Leadership



Outcome 8 is about having more disabled people as leaders on:

- government boards
- advisory committees.



Work has been done to:

- encourage disabled people to apply for jobs where they can be leaders
- keep the information where the jobs are listed up to date.



Training may be offered to disabled people who want to be leaders.



# About the work on Disability Data

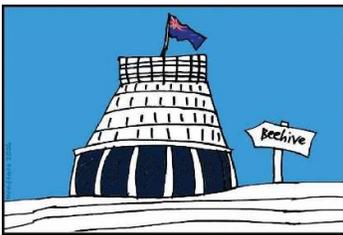


Work done on **disability data**:

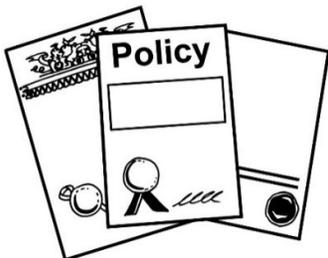
- does not fit in just 1 outcome
- belongs to all government agencies / departments.



**Disability data** is the information collected about disabled people.



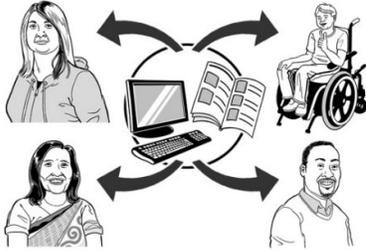
It is important to have good information about disabled people so that they can be included in **Government policies**.



**Government policies** are what Government chooses to do to make things better for people.



To find out about disabled people the Government looks at the information it collects.



The Ministry of Social Development is leading a group to make sure disability data can be shared with other agencies / departments.



The group is deciding what questions to ask when they collect information from disabled people.

## Where to find more information



You can find more information about what other government agencies have done in the full Disability Action Plan report called:



**Office for Disability Issues:  
Bi-annual Progress Report –  
July 2021 to December 2021**



You can find this report on the Office for Disability Issues website at:

**[www.odi.govt.nz](http://www.odi.govt.nz)**

This information has been written by  
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